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THE

STILLTOP

Vol.1
No. 2

A VOICE OF THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENT BODY

April 8, 1983

ELECTION VIOLATIONS CITED

There were many election violations in the April 6 HUSA elections this past Wednesday, according to Howard's student voters.

Witnesses cited as many as four constitutional violations which ranged from interference to students voting several times.

There were no approved election guidelines to govern the elections. Usually the guidelines are approved before the elections by the General Assembly, but the assembly failed to reach a quorum before the elections.

Other violations cited by Howard students were ballot-box stuffing and interference by student poll watchers in the election process.

Students also say that they were not allowed to write-in any candidates on the ballot.

Present HUSA president, Howard Newell wrote a letter protesting the elections to Rodney Bell, chairman of the Elections Committee.

Newell explained in his letter that students were denied their right to write-in candidates on the ballot.

"In light of the irregularities, I am demanding that all votes cast in this election be declared invalid," wrote Newell.

The votes cast in the elections were thrown out by both the General Assembly and the HUSA Policy Board.

The elections will be held on April 13 from 9 am-7 pm.

ELECTIONS THROWN OUT

In the most heavily attended General Assembly meeting this year, members voted to throw out the results of the April 6 elections.

The Assembly also voted to conduct university elections on Wednesday April 13 and to allow write-in candidates to enter the race up until Tuesday April 12 at 3 pm.

Members of the board voted 17-5 to make all votes cast in the April 6 elections invalid due to the irregularities and violations in the elections.

According to Election Committee Chairman Rodney Bell, the elections were held Wednesday, because he was served a summons from the D.C. Superior Court.

The summons charged Bell with "a serious abuse of process" in the 1983 elections.

"HUSA elections shall be held no later than the first Wednesday in April, according to the HUSA Constitution and Bell had scheduled the elections for April 13.

However, Bell says that he tried to get the General Assembly to meet and approve the April 6 election date before spring break, but the assembly failed to reach a quorum.

In order to avoid a lawsuit, Bell says he decided to hold the elections on April 6, although no voting machines could be obtained, and the students and candidates were notified only 15 hours in advance of

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HILLTOP SUSPENDED FOR SECOND WEEK UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS SAY PAPER \$30,000 IN DEBT

In a 6-5 vote Tuesday, the Hilltop Policy Board decided to suspend the publication of today's Hilltop.

This marks the second straight week that the Hilltop has not published.

According to Raymond Archer, the director of student activities, the Hilltop is more than \$30,000 in debt.

The money, says Archer, will have to be repaid to the university before the

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ELECTIONS CHANGED
continued from front page

the elections.

Protests by students that they could not write-in candidates, and that the elections process was unfair because no election guidelines had been approved prompted the board to vote on their decision.

* * * * *

In a "very heated", executive session Thursday night, the HUSA Policy Board, the only student body with the power to interpret the HUSA Constitution, decided that the General Assembly had not violated the HUSA Constitution, by throwing out the results of the April 6 elections.

The body voted 5-1 to recognize the April 6 election as being constitutionally right, but to throw out the votes "due to the inappropriate procedures exercised in the elections," according to a policy board member.

David Jones, president of the School of Human Ecology, made the original motion which got three abstentions.

PAPER SUSPENDED
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paper can resume publication.

At present, the university has no funds to give to the paper, according to Carl Anderson, vice president for student affairs, who said that not even the president of the university has money to loan the paper.

The decision came on the heels of an independent audit conducted over the spring break.

Although the figures were not available for the meeting, Archer said that his figures indicated that the paper was more than \$30,000 in debt.

The audit was conducted after Hilltop Editor-in-Chief, Janice McKnight charged university officials with misappropriating Hilltop funds.

THOUGHT WITHOUT ACTION IS EMPTY ;
ACTION WITHOUT THOUGHT IS BLIND

--Kwame Nkrumah

.....COMMENTARIES.....

THE HILLTOP...
STILL LOOKING FOR THE MONEY

University officials refused to give funds to the Hilltop this week because they claim that the university just doesn't have any more money. However, Howard University received approximately 100.4 million dollars from the federal government for it's 1982-83 budget.

Moreover, this university which says it has no more money in its accounts manages to pay high salaries to secretaries turned executives. For a university with a budget the size of Howard's, funding the Hilltop should be a small feat.

This refusal to give money to the Hilltop comes in the wake of a university conducted audit which supposedly revealed a deficit in the newspaper's operating budget.

However, no one but key university officials have seen these figures. It seems this part of the story will remain a mystery...for awhile....

Make no mistake about it, the univ-

sity's tight-fisted posture when it comes to the financial needs of the Hilltop is a calculated move to silence any dissident viewpoints expressed by the student body for once and for all; the same public that the Hilltop represents.

It is an all out attack designed to make sure that no one, especially students will be aware of the policies and practices that will eventually stifle and destroy the university's most precious asset--academic freedom

Greetings Sisters and Brothers:

During the last couple of weeks this campus and student body has been subjected to one of the most blatant and vicious assaults upon their educational, civil, human and political rights.

We must however continue to agitate and fight for our rights and organize as never before.

As Fredrick Douglas once said
"Power concedes nothing without a demand...
it never has and it never will."

--Howard Newell, HUSA president